

The RSVP Reporter

December, 2013

Louisville Metro RSVP

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Your Invitation to Serve



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

Greetings from Marian,

2013 is coming to a close and it's been a very exciting and challenging year for RSVP. As you read on, you'll see just a few of the stories of success that we are able to share. Many, many acts of an RSVP volunteer's impactful kindness go either undocumented for fancy awards or unnoticed except by the grateful heart of the recipient. It does not make them less important – just less known.

As we move into 2014, the first three months are going to be *jam-packed* with RSVP projects. We have a volunteer survey that is enclosed – and improving the program per your feedback is our first priority. We also have Site surveys that will be conducted by our Advisory Council for response. Next, we will be working with volunteers to have the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Week project – January 21-24th (see article).

In February, we will be trying to reschedule your “Heart-warming” In-service. March will close out our fiscal year with the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and “Festivities!”

RSVP and our sister program, FGP are even talking about April (National Volunteer Month)!

I am also very pleased to introduce our new RSVP Volunteer Coordinator, Michelle Nickerson. Please see her bio.

Through all of these activities, we still know that the most important part of our program is YOU. You volunteers at the sites and how much we want to find more folks like you - to help your sites and the new sites coming aboard.

Please encourage each other, let the RSVP office know if one of our members needs a card of congratulations, get well wishes, etc.

Thank all of you so much for your patience with me as I was by myself six months this year in your service as you were serving others.

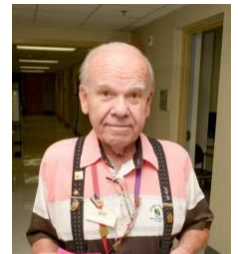
Best wishes always!

Marian Gosling, RSVP Director

RSVP/VAMC Volunteers Win CNCS 2013 Service Impact Award: “Healthy Futures”

On Friday, September 20th in Washington, DC; Louisville Metro RSVP was honored in absentia at the 20th Anniversary AmeriCorps Celebration that also included the 2013 Service Impact Awards. CNCS CEO, Wendy Spencer, read the article and pictures of the Louisville Metro RSVP/VAMC volunteers were shared with a national audience telling of the 30-year successful collaboration between the facility and the national volunteer program and how it has benefitted the regional veterans' health.

Southwest Airlines also supported the contest by providing a prize of one, round-trip airline ticket for any of their destinations. We put all names of the folks in the article in a “hat” and lucky **Bob Bruckert** (shown here) was the winner at



the drawing for the SW airline ticket. Our most sincere congratulations to these folks for continuing and enhancing the legacy of those who have come before them!

OTHER AWARD WINNERS...

Alta Haunsz, 18-year RSVP member and Baptist Healthcare LaGrange volunteer, was honored on July 10, 2013 as the **Home Instead Senior Service Award for Kentucky!** Alta's many years of leadership to other volunteers at Baptist (Northeast) Healthcare, her unswerving dedication to the patients and families she encounters, kindness and willingness to serve staff earned her the highest praises and the nomination from her peers and Baptist LaGrange Coordinator, Susan Arnold.



RSVP celebrates this recognition as Alta has a long history of volunteering through the RSVP office with flexibility for special events, consistency for many years at the Kentucky for the Arts and more! Her unfailing smile of compassion and good humor is a real winner for encouraging others to be their best, also! We sincerely congratulate her!

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**Carolyn Belmar**, Louisville Metro Senior Corps (FGP & RSVP) Advisory Council Chairperson, received the **KY 2012 Governor's Award for National Service Volunteer** on June 25<sup>th</sup>!

(Ms. Carolyn Belmar with KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary, Audrey Tayse Haynes and Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson )



Ms. Belmar annually organizes and runs a 10-week summer camp for 30+ children, serving meals, providing Foster Grandparent Program tutoring, art & crafts, field trips for swimming, museums and more! She is also a mentor to the Southern H.S. Future Educators of America teens-supporting them on competition conference trips, at-home community service projects w/local elementary schools! AND Carolyn is a friendly visitor/games leader with a local retirement / nursing home; bringing Bingo prizes and yummy treats to eat! We are so happy for her partnership and her award!

**Marian Gosling**, RSVP staff, also had an *uplifting* summer. On June 25<sup>th</sup> in Frankfort, she was presented the **2012 Kentucky Governor's Award as State Volunteer Coordinator**.



And on July 8th, Marian was also promoted to the position of Louisville RSVP Director.

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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Best Wishes to ALL!

The RSVP office will be closed on:
Wednesday, December 25, 2013
Wednesday, January 1, 2014
Monday, January 20, 2014



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW RSVP VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR...

Michelle Nickerson quickly distinguished herself from the nearly 50 applicants with her pre-hiring initiative and her "seniors matter" answers during the interviews.

Michelle comes to us with BA in Psychology-Specialization in Women, Gender and Social Justice from Michigan State University and a MA in Educational Leadership with a Concentration in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Western Michigan University. Working in Volunteer and Service-Learning programs at Michigan State University and Western Michigan University for 3 years, Michelle worked to create a synergy between university and community by fostering the academic/career goals of over 200 students through the best possible volunteer opportunities.



However, Michelle has done more than just coordinate volunteers -- she enjoys participating in volunteer and community events, from visiting hospitals and schools with her Certified Therapy Dog, Sadie the Great Dane, to working at charity functions, to helping with community clean-up events.

Please join Marian in breathing a HUGE sigh of relief and happiness at having Michelle join the team.

Think about it....you as an RSVP volunteer?

Earning the **R**espect of your family

Continuing to **S**hape our community's future

Expanding your **V**ision of life

Being a **P**eer role model

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As RSVP closes this year, I look back with sorrow for the losses of the dear volunteers (*even those who had become inactive*) who have passed on. But I also sigh with gratitude for having been privileged to have known them and shared a bit of their time on this earth.

Marian

## NEW!! 2014 MLK Week - RSVP and agency partners bring food and disaster preparedness to homebound

Often those who are on a limited budget and/or don't get out of the house don't have access to the information many of us take for granted. This includes safety and disaster preparedness for sheltering in place or when and where to call if a disaster strikes.

The MLK-dedicated week of **January 21-24, 2014**; RSVP volunteers who serve with the Louisville Metro Senior Nutrition Program, HOPOP, South Louisville Community Ministries and SeniorCare Experts, Inc. will be asked to bundle information packets per route. Then, mobile meal deliverers are asked to distribute per mobile meal client an updated American Red Cross packet of information.

This MLK Project by RSVP and partners is expected to involve about 90 volunteers and serve 800 households throughout Jefferson County, KY.

We **greatly** appreciate the efforts of the congregated center volunteers and the meal deliverers in making this outreach campaign work! You may be saving lives of the future!

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Town Crier "shout outs!"

This is a new feature of recognizing folks during the year. You never know when YOUR time will come!

Thank you for volunteering, helping other volunteers and for staying with RSVP!

RSVP APPRECIATES YOU!!

Jay & JoAnne Abraham

Jessie Blevins

Charles Crenshaw

Guy Dorsey, Jr.

Elisabeth Duncan

Fred Graef

C. Lee Hornung

Marilyn Hrbek

Jarvis Jackson

Ann Koch

Betty Menesse

Carolyn Quick

Evelyn Reed

Wanda Smith

Roland Steiner

Kay Wyssbrod



Welcome New RSVP Station

The Parkinson's Support Center of Kentuckiana (PSCKY) The organization has evolved dramatically since the early 1990's when it began with a small core group of 12 people meeting in Mall Health Centers. Now at their 2010 donated home offices, staff and volunteers reach out to the 8,000 Louisville residents and additional 6,000 people throughout Kentucky who are fighting this disease. Their rally cry is "live well and fight back" against Parkinson's disease!

However, there is SO much more to be done and more Outreach Volunteers are needed to be trained to share the messages with civic groups, at neighborhood events, at church groups, PTSA's and so forth!

RSVP encourages you to consider for yourself or share with others the opportunities to help PSCKY with planning and implementing educational meetings or special events.

Call the RSVP office at **574-7306** so we can add this volunteer decision to your caring profile!

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## MARK your Calendars!!

### RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and Festivities!

**FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2014**

12:00 noon – 3:00 pm



### WHY have "RECOGNITION?"

We hear it frequently. "I don't need any recognition!" However, recognition is a critical part of every volunteer *program*. It serves:

- To offer respect, and, *in a measurable way*, and offer a slight reward for the unselfish gift of volunteerism &/or outstanding work.
- To some, it **may** mean the difference between someone continuing or quitting!
- To remind other folks of the necessity of social awareness and action
- To proclaim the *decision to volunteer* as somehow physically/mentally "do-able" for all others to follow and replicate in their own lives.
- To leave a lasting tribute for families to cherish for those who are NOT normally in the public eye for local heroism and American citizenship.

**PLUS it's just fun to party!!**

## Current Volunteer Opportunities!

- **CRITICALLY NEEDED!** Lunchtime meal deliverers for homebound seniors- all areas
- **Want to stay in YOUR neighborhood?** Help at one of the 53 JCPS Resource Centers. Before and after school, homework & general fun activities helpers. Open 7AM-6PM for 3-hour shifts. Register now for background checks.
- **NEW!** Children's clothes closet helpers at Central H.S.
- **VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)** volunteers needed at 810 Barret Avenue Urban Government Center as Greeters, Intake Helpers and, once trained, Filing Assistants. NO previous accounting/tax experience necessary. **Confidentiality, honesty** and friendliness required.
- **Food Pantry** volunteers needed to help with pick-up of donations from stores, packaging into family bundles on distribution days and unloading/storing donations as received (several locations).
- **Escort drivers** needed for armed services veterans to/from hospital or suburban clinics.
- **ALWAYS NEEDED!** Friendly, consistent visitors to nursing home residents to share conversation, readings, TV talk, etc.
- **Help the pet environment!** Help *recycle* living, furry bundles of friendship to new loving homes! Be a pet foster parent or behavior coach! 2 agencies taking applications!

### FYI...Serious stuff

Because of funding directions, Louisville Metro RSVP must now focus recruitment in order on the following areas: Healthy Futures, Veterans and their Families, Disaster Preparedness, Education (Pre-school, K-5), Economic Opportunities, Capacity Building, and Ecological Stewardship.

Unfortunately, the days of federal funding for ALL forms of volunteerism are gone at the end of our current grant. Please help us recruit toward these areas by referring your friends and family members who are age 55 and over.

## Survey Time!

Yes, it's that time of year when RSVP wants your opinion. We've just completed a 3-year period of several staff changes and we're looking forward to the future. However, can you tell us where we stand with you right now?

If you have access and are comfortable with a PC, up to 100 folks can complete the short survey on [www.SurveyMonkey.com](http://www.SurveyMonkey.com) entitled "Louisville Metro RSVP Volunteer Survey." Otherwise, please complete the enclosed paper copy and return to your site manager for forwarding to the RSVP office by **January 15, 2014**. Thank you very much!

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## RSVP Logo Ball caps and Jackets

**AVAILABLE:** RSVP'S very nice Northwest Territory, royal blue, heavy fleece jackets with logo or heavy-duty royal, adjustable baseball cap w/ logo.

### Who qualifies?

- If you have enrolled in RSVP since 1/1/12
- You have NOT already received one
- You want one for yourself as an RSVP member
- FIRST CALL/EMAIL = FIRST RESERVED

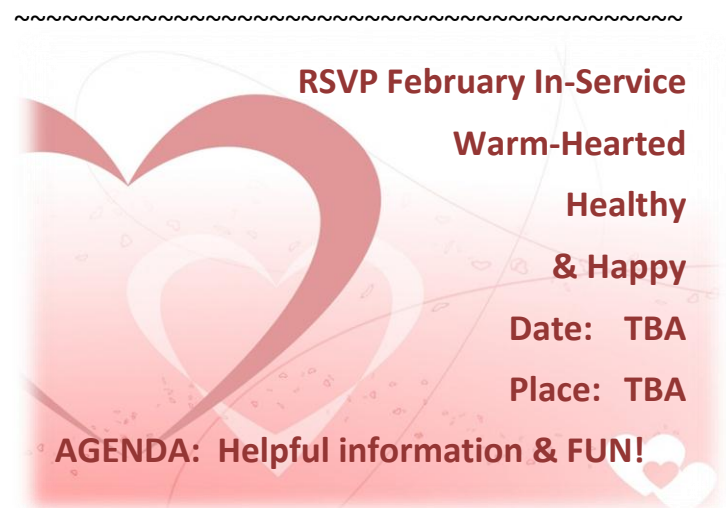
### Sizes available:

31 SM      32 MED      24 LGE

About a dozen each:

XLGE      2XLGE      3XLGE

Call **574-1530** NOW to reserve this warm, toasty membership appreciation bonus!! We *may* never be able to offer this again!



**RSVP February In-Service**

**Warm-Hearted**

**Healthy**

**& Happy**

**Date: TBA**

**Place: TBA**

**AGENDA: Helpful information & FUN!**